

Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03

AID-05 PER-01 OPR-02 A-01 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /071 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4735

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CGEN, CASC, APER, AMER, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: INQUIRIES CONCERNING US EFFORTS TO FACILITATE
MOVEMENT TO THE US

REF: STATE 76207 AND 74970; SAIGON 4238

1. FOLLOWING MAY BE HELPFUL RESPONDING INQUIRIES.

2. EMBASSY RECEIVING NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM POSTS AROUND
WORLD TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF
AMERICANS AS WELL AS FLOOD OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REQUESTING SAME. SITUATION SUCH
THAT WE ATTEMPTING REPLY ALL CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE
BY CABLE BUT IS IMPOSSIBLE REPLY OTHER INQUIRIES. WE
ARE RECEIVING NUMEROUS REQUESTS, PRIVATE AND CONGRESSIONAL,
THAT WE LOCATE SOMEONE FOR ASSISTANCE. VIRTUALLY NEVER
IS THERE A TELEPHONE AND THE ADDRESS IS USUALLY GARBLED.
WE DO NOT HAVE STAFF TO UNDERTAKE SEARCHES THROUGHOUT
SAIGON BUT ARE DOING THE BEST WE CAN WITHIN LIMITED
CAPABILITY.

3. PARENTS, SIBLINGS AND OTHER RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE
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WOMEN MARRIED TO AMERICANS MAY NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE

VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS AND EXIT VISAS. THERE IS A BAN ON TRAVEL. ALL VIETNAMESE MALES BETWEEN 17 AND 42 ARE SUBJECT TO MILITARY SERVICE AND MAY NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE THE COUNTRY. BOYS OF FOURTEEN (COUNTED FROM JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY) ARE POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND MAY NOT DEPART.

4. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS IN CHAOS, WITH THOUSANDS OF PASSPORT APPLICANTS WHO WILL BE UNSUCCESSFUL BUT ARE CLOGGING THE MACHINERY. NONETHELESS, PASSPORTS ARE BEING ISSUED TO THE WIVES, CHILDREN AND FIANCEES OF AMERICANS.

5. THE FILING OF PETITIONS BY AMERICAN CITIZENS IS IRRELEVANT TO THE VIETNAMESE RELATIVE'S EMIGRATION. EMBASSY QUITE PREPARED TO ISSUE IMMIGRANT VISAS BASED ON APPROVED PETITIONS, BUT OUR IMMIGRANT VISA WILL BE OF NO VALUE TO APPLICANT IN DEPARTING VIETNAM. HAVE SEVERAL HUNDRED SUCH PETITIONS ON FILE NOW.

6. IT IS PROBABLE THAT ALL ORPHANS ALREADY PLACED WITH AMERICAN FAMILIES WILL BE FLOWN OUT IN AIRLIFT IN NEXT FEW DAYS. POSSIBLE EXCEPTION MAY BE THOSE WHOSE ADOPTIONS ARE BEING HANDLED PRIVATELY BY LOCAL ATTORNEY REPRESENTING ADOPTIVE FAMILY; HOWEVER, IT PROBABLE THAT EVEN THESE CHILDREN, IF RELEASED TO ONE OF THE LICENSED VOLAGS, WILL BE AIRLIFTED WITH THAT AGENCY'S CHILDREN.

7. NON-ORPHAN VIETNAMESE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS OR VIETNAMESE LIVING IN THE US ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PASSPORTS.

8. THE VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE IN THE UNITED STATES, REGARDLESS OF THE PERSON'S STATUS IN THE US, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PASSPORTS.

9. THERE NO CURRENT INDICATION OF ANY RELAXATION IN THE TRAVEL BAN.

10. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CIRCULATE ALL OR PART OF ABOVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ALL POSTS AND TO US MILITARY COMMANDS.

11. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THERE LITTLE HOPS OF THIS, REDUCTION IN FLOOD OF CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE WOULD ENABLE US DEVOTE INFINITELY MORE TIME TO HANDLING CASES AND GETTING JOB DONE. DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE THAT MERELY PULLING AND READING FILE TO DETERMINE STATUS FOR REPLY SEVERELY LIMITS ABILITY ISSUE VISAS AND APPROVE

PETITIONS. WE NOW SIX DAYS BEHIND IN ANSWERING
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.
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